

Dakota County Library Board
March 12, 2009
5:30 pm
Dakota County Wescott Library

Present: Ms. Zenk, Ms. Kes, Mr. Larsen, Mr. Duling, Mr. Olson, Ms. Johnson

Library Staff: Ken Behringer, Library Director; Roseanne Byrne, Deputy Director; Eric Austin; Nancy Wisser, Roger Parish, Naomi Golv, Lee Schubert, and Maureen Bell.

Other County Representatives: Commissioner Nancy Schouweiler; Tom Novak, PS&R; Joe Lexa; Ken Harrington; Gail Plewacki and Sharon Madsen-County Communications

Representatives from Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle (MS&R)

Mr. Olson called to order at 5:38 p.m. after a small Grand Re-opening for the Wescott Library.

Approval of Consent Agenda: (item 4) Mr. Behringer commented that circulation continues to be up. He noted that there was a revised BIP expenditure detail in the packets. Mr. Duling moved and Ms. Zenk seconded that the revisions be approved. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Zenk moved and Ms. Kes seconded that the consent agenda be approved. Motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report: (item 5) Mr. Behringer reported that there was mold in the lower level restrooms and elevator shaft. These will have to be closed for several weeks for demolition, cleaning and reconstruction. Paul Deaven is working things out with the delivery provider to minimize the impact this will have on the route. Library Legislative Day is March 25th. Interested Library Board members should contact Mr. Behringer and Kathy Peterson will set up a schedule of visits. The Robert Trail Library operations have been impressive both in terms of service numbers and feedback from the public. The Robert Trail Library is so popular with teens after school hours that some behavior issues have arisen. Staff is working with school officials to set the most effective policies for serving and dealing with teen clientele. They hope to set a good tone and convey a positive message to all. Mary Johnson has completed contract discussions with Bowker to implement the switch to this firm as the primary provider of print materials. Based on higher volume discounts, this switch should expand the number of items being purchased with DCL's budget for library materials. Mr. Behringer called attention to the list of staff observing anniversary dates, saying it felt rewarding and important to be able to recognize so many people.

(item 6.a.) Review of Remodeling Project at the Wescott Library: Joe Lexa and Ken Harrington addressed the items listed on the Post Project Concerns sheet. All of the concerns had either been taken care of or were in the process of resolution -- with the exception of lighting in the magazine area, gaps between walls in the children's reading areas, and the hand rails on the stairs. It was determined that Library staff would respond to CPPM on the lighting situation once the window was installed. The Library Board suggested wood railings on the stairs to match the surroundings. It was said these would not show dirt as much as the current white rails. Mr. Harrington said that there were still a few edges to sand and gaps to close including one in the Children's reading area.

After the Library Board was satisfied that each individual item was being addressed, Commissioner Schouweiler expressed her disappointment with MS&R, mainly because they had been the high bid and the Library Board had requested additional money in order to secure their services. Jeff Mandyck of MS&R staff said that they, too, felt disappointment that their vision had not fully communicated with the Library Board to the extent that they had wished. Library Board members stated that the public has had a very positive reaction to the remodeling, that the building is much improved and much brighter and lighter. The concern was more about their belief that what they had seen first presented by MS&R did not match the final outcome. Mr. Harrington said that he would have final updates at the April meeting.

Eric Austin said that staff and the public really like the new look of the building and the central desk area is working out very well.

(item 6.b.) Update on the Library Branding Process from Dakota County Communications: Gail Plewacki recapped the process of developing a communication tool to help people appreciate what an important resource the library is for the community. Ms. Plewacki then gave a PowerPoint presentation that demonstrated sample

production pieces for the new "Come to Know" theme for the library. Library Board members were very supportive and the reaction was very favorable. The process is set to roll out to the public on May 9th. Production of roll out pieces will involve work between County Communications and the Library's Community Connections and building managers. Templates will be available and the two departments will be working together.

(item 6.c.) Update on Activities Related to the Burnhaven Building Assessment: Staff from CPPM, the Library and Wold have initiated meetings to review building issues, needs and potential solutions. Mr. Harrington said there were three design options for the garage space for the Bookmobile in the building; 1) convert the space for addition library square footage, 2) convert the space for inclusion of a service/license center, 3) don't convert the space. Mr. Behringer said that he was open to having the license center there since these have been a good fit for the county in other locations. His hope is that the Library would be seen as assisting the County in its efforts improve service to residents in a most economical manner. Mr. Novak said it made sense to house the Bookmobile at the Empire facility with other County vehicles given that it is serviced at that location. The Library Board gave a positive consensus as to going forward with the alternatives within the space study as long as it did not compromise existing levels of library space or operations. The Dakota County Commissioners, sitting as the Administration/Finance/Policy Committee will look at the situation in April.

(item 6.d.) Report on Vendors for Coffee Services at the Wescott Library: Library staff has met with the City of Eagan to determine the possibility of operating coffee services within Wescott utilizing City staff. No draft contract has been drawn up but work and interest continues. The Friends of the Wescott Library donated \$10,000 for start-up equipment. There continues to be a need to work on staffing. Public interest appears to be great and the Library Board affirmed continuing the process.

(items 6.e and 6.f Requests for Reconsideration of Library Materials *Superman: the ultimate guide to the man of steel* and *Cosmopolitan* magazine. Ms. Zenk moved and Mr. Larsen seconded that *Superman* remain in the collection as is. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Kes moved and Ms. Johnson seconded that *Cosmo* remain in the collection as is. Motion passed unanimously. Pres. Olson will draft letters of response.

Ms. Byrne reported that Pleasant Hill had hosted a reading session featuring World War II veterans. It was well received and people who attended found it very moving. They also received \$20 from a patron who had used the library facilities in search of a job after he had found one.

The Library Board discussed the scaling down of Library Staff Day, in light of the budget constraints. They also suggested bringing or covering the cost of their own lunches for the Library Board Retreat in April.

There were no further items to discuss; therefore, Ms. Zenk moved and Ms. Kes seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Next meeting will be April 9, 5:30 pm at the Heritage Library in Lakeville.

Don Olson, Library Board President

Anita Kes, Library Board Secretary